

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 072133Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8478

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2474

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR, MX

SUBJ: ASYLEES IN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS: SOME MOVEMENT

REF: CARACAS 3541

1. SUMMARY. AFTER MONTHS OF INACTION GOC APPARENTLY MAKING
CONCERTED EFFORT TO LOWER NUMBER OF ASYLEES IN SANTIAGO'S DIP-
LOMATIC MISSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN SPEED-UP IN GOC'S GRANTING OF SAFE-
CONDUCTS TO ASYLEES TO LEAVE COUNTRY. MOVEMENT FOLLOWS LONG
PERIOD OF GENERAL INACTION. TOTAL NUMBER OF ASYLEES IN SANTIAGO
EMBASSIES DID NOT CHANGE NOTABLY DURING FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1974.
THOUGH GOC GRANTED OVER 4,000 SAFECONDUCTS FOR ASYLEES AND
"GUESTS" TO LEAVE CHILE, FAIRLY STEADY POPULATION OF ABOUT 250
INDIVIDUALS IN EMBASSIES HAD BEEN MAINTAINED. GOVT HAS CONTENTED
SINCE SHORTLY AFTER COUP THAT ALL THESE IN "DEFERRED" STATUS WOULD
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EVENТУALLY BE GIVEN SAFECONDUCTS TO LEAVE COUNTRY, BUT ONLY

AFTER CHILEAN COURTS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAD DETERMINED WHETHER SIMULTANEOUS EXTRADITION REQUESTS IN ORDER.

3. APRIL 24 ASSERTION BY AIR FORCE CHIEF AND JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH (SANTIAGO 2255) THAT ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES WOULD BE CLEARED OF ASYLEES WITHIN 30 DAYS APPARENTLY SIGNALLING SHIFT IN GOC HANDLING OF ASYLEE PROBLEM.

4. LEIGH'S STATEMENT SOMEWHAT MODIFIED FEW DAYS LATER BY UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COLLADOS, WHO NOTED THAT GENERAL'S WORDS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS "LETTER OF INTENT" OF GOC'S BASIC PLANS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT 30-DAY TARGET MIGHT NOT BE REALISTIC. IN SAME PRESS CONFERENCE COLLADOS REFERRED AT LENGTH TO RESOLUTION OF VENEZUELAN SENATE, CALLING ON GOC TO PROVIDE SAFECONDUCTS OUT OF COUNTRY FOR ALL ASYLEES AND CRITICIZING GOC FOR ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (REFTEL). COLLADOS ATTRIBUTED RESOLUTION TO ERRONEOUS INFORMATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED THAT SITUATION OF ASYLEES IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY WOULD BE DEALT WITH EXPEDITIOUSLY.

5. LATEST GOC STATISTICS INDICATE THAT GOVT CARRYING THROUGH ON PROMISE. NUMBER OF ASYLEES IN VENEZUELAN MISSION HAS FALLEN FROM 24 ON APRIL 1 TO 5 (INCLUDING JACQUES CHONCHOL) AT BEGINNING OF THIS MONTH. TOTAL NUMBER OF ASYLEES IN ALL MISSIONS HAS DECREASED IN THE SAME PERIOD FROM 252 TO 179. OTHER EMBASSIES WHICH HAVE SHOWN SIGNIFICANT DEPOPULATION INCLUDE ARGENTINA (17 TO 6) AND ITALY (33 TO 16). OTHER TOTALS HAVE DECLINED MINIMALLY OR REMAINED THE SAME. LARGEST GROUP NOW RESIDING IN MEXICAN EMBASSY WHICH HAS 62 AS COMPARED WITH 65 AS OF APRIL 1. LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED NUMEROUS STORIES POINTING OUT MEXICANS STILL ACCEPTING ASYLEES, THOUGH ALLEGEDLY NONE WHO HAVE BEEN RECENTLY TAKEN IN ARE WANTED BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES.

6. MAY 7 EL MERCURIO CARRIES SMALL STORY REPORTING THAT COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR STILL WAITING FOR GOC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TO RESPOND TO NOTE HE DELIVERED IN EARLY APRIL (SANTIAGO 1996) WHICH REPEATED EARLIER PLEA BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ THAT GOC SPEED UP ISSUANCE OF SAFECONDUCTS FOR ASYLEES WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN "DEFERRED" STATUS WHILE BACKGROUNDS CHECKED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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COURT CASES DEVELOPED TO JUSTIFY SUBSEQUENT EXTRADITION REQUESTS. COLOMBIAN EMBASSY STILL HAS 6 ASYLEES, 3 OF WHOM REMAIN IN DEFERRED STATUS. OTHERS PROBABLY WILL RECEIVE SAFECONDUCTS SHORTLY.

7. IN MAY 6 CONVERSATION WITH EMOFF, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ASYLEE MATTERS STATED THAT EMBASSIES WOULD SOON BE CLEARED OUT, BUT HE REFRAINED FROM GIVING SPECIFIC DATE

NOTING COMPLICATIONS PRESENTED BY ONGOING COURT CASES AGAINST SOME ASYLEES. OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOC'S INTENTION TO RELEASE ALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IS FIRM "BUT THAT THIS GOOD WILL COULD BE KILLED IF A CERTAIN EMBASSY (READ MEXICO) CONTINUES TO ACCEPT ASYLEES NEEDLESSLY."

8. COMMENT. PROBABLE THAT GOC HAS MADE SAME POINT TO MEXICANS. IN ANY EVENT JUNTA HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT ASYLEES MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN THEY ARE WORTH, AND GOC WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED TO EMPTY EMBASSIES.

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